

City of Pekin
Human Rights Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2013

- I. Welcome and introductions – Meeting began at 7:30am. Present: Pamela Anderson, Melinda Figge, Bill Fleming, Roger Goodson, Becky Saban, Linda Seth, and Carol Shields.

- II. Approval of agenda – Approved on a motion by Figge, second by Saban.

- III. Approval of minutes – Minutes of the August 28th meeting were approved as distributed on a motion by Figge, second by Goodson.

- IV. Correspondence and feedback – none.

- V. Old Business
 - A. Murals (Pekin High School) / Brush with Diversity logo discussion – We will need IDOT’s permission to pain the mural under the bridge. We would also need their approval to close a lane of traffic if we ever decided to paint a mural on the wall owned by the homeowners along Court Street. Anderson will write a letter to IDOT to get their approval. We agreed to use the latest version of the Brush With Diversity logo on the mural. We still have time, or could always go back and change that part of the mural if needed.

 - B. 50th Anniversary Display at Pekin Library (recap) – About 40 people attended the event. The I Have A Dream video was well received and is still available on line and linked from the YWCA and Library’s sites.

 - C. Executive gathering (update) – While the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce might be interested in forming a CEO roundtable, the consensus so far was that the topics would be more focused on business issues, not community issues. We again discussed a city update as a possible discussion forum opportunity. We then discussed taking our message to the service organizations, which could lead

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into a Q&A and discussion. We will discuss an outline of that presentation at the October meeting.

D. Community read project (update) – The Pekin Public Library would like to partner with us on this project. In order to plan it properly, we are thinking about the fall of 2014. We discussed several titles, and whether the book should focus on racial or class diversity. The committee will read a couple books this fall and make a decision. The October meeting might include the books to read.

E. City of Pekin discussion (update) – At last month’s meeting Anderson was looking for input from the committee on an internal issue at City Hall. Someone had distributed/posted “Pekin Chinks” sticky-notes on office doors. Some committee members did find appropriate language in their personnel manuals. However, it was discovered the City has appropriate language in their employee handbook, and the issue was resolved.

VI. New Business

A. November and December 2013 meetings – due to the holidays and the need for us to meet, the November meeting will be on the 20th and the December meeting will be on the 18th.

VII. Other business to come before the committee

A. Committee members – Figge distributed information about an upcoming diversity program sponsored by the McLean County YWCA, the Pekin Women’s Leadership Network, and Bradley University’s plans for the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

B. Committee advisory members – none

C. City staff – none

D. Public – none

E. Press - none

IV. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:38am.